

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 110-2005



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: April 29, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge".

Subject: FREE CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM – DNA LIFEPRINT KITS

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information about a Free Child Safety Program at South Pointe Elementary School, 1050 4th Street, on Wednesday May 4th at 10:00 a.m.

RECEIVED
05 APR 29 PM 1:37
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The safety program is designed to promote awareness and education for parents and children in an effort to protect children against violence. The goal is to provide DNA LifePrint Kits to every child in our elementary school feeder pattern. This program which will distribute over 5,000 kits is being sponsored by the Miami Beach Police Department, the MBPD Police Athletic League, Miami Beach Community Health Center, Bal Harbour Police Department, Southern Wine and Spirits, and United Automobile Insurance Company.

The kit is completely non-invasive; meaning no blood is taken or handled. The procedure simply involves rubbing the inside of the child's cheek for several seconds with the applicator in the kit. The applicator is then inserted into a fixative solution, contained in the vial and the child's DNA is captured and will be preserved for more than 80 years.

This program is endorsed by Child Advocate and Crime Fighter John Walsh. Studies have shown that unless fingerprints are taken by a trained technician; they are notoriously unreliable as a means of identification whereas DNA samples are a much more viable option. FBI Officials advise having a DNA sample ready to go can greatly help an investigation.

The DNA kit is given directly to the parents. There is no data base being established. The Kit contains detailed instructions on how to use the DNA kit. Parents are encouraged to take the DNA sample in the privacy of their own home. Parents will also be given John Walsh's Child Safety Tips and comprehensive brochure.

JMG\DW\tr